

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing abortion services, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To authorize grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing abortion services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reproductive Health  
5 Travel Fund Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) On June 24, 2022, in its decision in *Dobbs*  
2           *v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the Su-  
3           preme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, reversing dec-  
4           ades of precedent recognizing the constitutional  
5           right to terminate a pregnancy.

6           (2) The abortion access landscape was already  
7           strained. This decision has decimated access for mil-  
8           lions of people in the United States. More than half  
9           of States are predicted to ban or severely restrict  
10          abortion in the months and years following the deci-  
11          sion.

12          (3) The implications of this decision will fall  
13          hardest on people who already face barriers to  
14          health care access, particularly Black people, Indige-  
15          nous people, and other people of color, people with  
16          disabilities, people in rural areas, young people, peo-  
17          ple with documentation barriers, and those having  
18          difficulty making ends meet.

19          (4) People have always had abortions and al-  
20          ways will, even in the face of legal, financial, and  
21          logistical barriers, or criminalization. While some  
22          will self-manage their abortions, and have the option  
23          of using pills that are medically safe and effective,  
24          many others are traveling hundreds of miles out of  
25          State, or forced to carry pregnancies to term.

1           (5) Abortion funds and practical support funds  
2           (referred to in this section as “funds”) are commu-  
3           nity-based organizations that support people in over-  
4           coming financial and logistical barriers to abortion  
5           care.

6           (6) Funds work together to remove financial  
7           and logistical barriers to abortion access and have  
8           been doing this work for decades. Some of these bar-  
9           riers are transportation, food, lodging, childcare,  
10          translation, doula services, among other barriers.

11          (7) Many funds are led by people who have had  
12          abortions themselves, including a growing base of  
13          Black and Brown leaders who have themselves faced  
14          abortion obstacles and understand the complex cir-  
15          cumstances individuals may face.

16          (8) Abortion funds have a history of being  
17          underresourced and rely mostly on volunteer time  
18          and energy to support communities.

19          (9) Abortion and practical support funds hold  
20          some of the closest ties to people who are having  
21          abortions and have the first-hand experience, up-to-  
22          date and on-the-ground knowledge, and the regional  
23          and national connections needed to support abortion  
24          seekers financially, emotionally, or logistically.

1           (10) Clinics in States where abortion is legal  
2           and more accessible are receiving an influx of people  
3           seeking abortions. Provider shortages plus this rapid  
4           increase in patients will cause longer waits for ap-  
5           pointments.

6           (11) When people are not able to access an  
7           abortion when they need it, they are often pushed  
8           much further into pregnancy. This increases costs  
9           exponentially. For many, the increased financial bur-  
10          den will push abortion care completely out of reach.

11          (12) A rapidly changing access landscape, as  
12          bans are implemented and challenged, means that  
13          the window to access care in certain States may be  
14          limited. People who are put in a position where they  
15          must postpone their care due to financial or other  
16          constraints may face appointment cancellations due  
17          to overnight changes in legality.

18          (13) Funds often work with each other if they  
19          cannot fully assist a caller, or if a caller is traveling  
20          across regions. A national network of almost 100  
21          abortion and practical support funds has dem-  
22          onstrated these funds are uniquely positioned to lead  
23          in this moment and need support.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO PAY FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES AND**  
2 **LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AC-**  
3 **CESSING ABORTION SERVICES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury  
5 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may award  
6 grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses  
7 and logistical support for individuals with respect to ac-  
8 cessing abortion services.

9 (b) TIMING.—Beginning not later than 30 days after  
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall so-  
11 licit applications for grants under this section.

12 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

13 (1) PERMISSIBLE USES.—An eligible entity re-  
14 ceiving a grant under this section shall use the grant  
15 for travel-related expenses and logistical support for  
16 individuals with respect to accessing abortion serv-  
17 ices, which may include any of the following ex-  
18 penses and support:

19 (A) Round trip travel to the location where  
20 the abortion services are provided.

21 (B) Lodging.

22 (C) Meals.

23 (D) Childcare.

24 (E) Translation services.

25 (F) Doula care.

1 (G) Patient education and information  
2 services.

3 (2) ORGANIZATIONAL COSTS.—An eligible enti-  
4 ty receiving a grant under this section may use up  
5 to, but not more than, 15 percent of the grant funds  
6 to cover organizational costs such as—

7 (A) community outreach efforts;

8 (B) physical infrastructure construction  
9 and maintenance;

10 (C) website development and maintenance;

11 and

12 (D) increasing staff capacity and training.

13 (3) IMPERMISSIBLE USES.—An eligible entity  
14 receiving a grant under this section shall not use the  
15 grant for costs of an abortion procedure.

16 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To seek a grant under this sec-  
17 tion, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an  
18 application at such time, in such manner, and containing  
19 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

20 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the recipients of grants  
21 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-  
22 ble entities that—

23 (1) serve individuals who live in a jurisdiction  
24 that has banned or severely restricted access to  
25 abortion;

1           (2) serve individuals who travel to a jurisdiction  
2           other than the one where they live to be provided  
3           abortion services; or

4           (3) have a program in operation, or submit as  
5           part of the application required under subsection (d)  
6           a plan to establish and operate a program, to help  
7           individuals access abortion services.

8           (f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
10          after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
11          thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a  
12          report on the program under this section.

13          (2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The reports under  
14          paragraph (1) shall not include any individually  
15          identifiable information.

16          (g) PREEMPTION.—The provisions of this section  
17          shall supercede any provision of State, Tribal, territorial,  
18          or local law that would have the effect of prohibiting any  
19          use of funds provided for under this section.

20          (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21           (1) The term “eligible entity”—

22           (A) means a nonprofit organization, or a  
23           community-based organization, that assists in-  
24           dividuals seeking an abortion through pro-

1           grams, services, or activities that are unbiased  
2           and medically and factually accurate; and

3                   (B) excludes any entity that discourages  
4           individuals from seeking an abortion.

5           (2) The term “nonprofit organization” means  
6           an organization that—

7                   (A) is described in subsection (c)(3) of sec-  
8           tion 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;  
9           and

10                   (B) is, under subsection (a) of such sec-  
11           tion, exempt from taxation.

12           (i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry  
13           out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
14           \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.